

# Using your gifts

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## Aim of the assembly:

This assembly aims to inspire your people to think of their potential. Who knows what they might be able to achieve later on in life? While this is certainly true, it is also important to say that people do not become great, amazing or famous over night with no hard work involved. The Bible talks about the sowing of seed often in a way that shows this to be a parable of life. Gifts are seeds, they need to be sown, cared for and watered to see a harvest come about. The same is true for the potential that is in everyone.

## Props needed

Digging spade, watering can, brown sheet to signify plot of land (good to drape part of it over a box, so that it is more visible), bags of seed, small tools for assistants, something to signify very big flowers (we found sunflower umbrellas on the internet and bought three. Great effect when you open up the umbrellas at the end of the story for harvest time.) Dress up your actors to look like Farmers.

## Intro

Most famous people have something in common...they have a gift, or an ability for something, but they also did their best to develop this ability...and now we think of them as amazing people... Use a couple of pictures to talk about their ability and how they developed it... (Andrew Murray/ David Beckham/ The Queen....lots of life stories would show the same principle)

Looking at the children in front of us, they have a gift and abilities as well...and who knows, some might become great footballers, or politicians, artists, scientists, explorers...they just need to develop their gifts as these other people have done!!

**Today we want to think about our gifts and abilities and how we can make the best use of them!**

And we have a Bible story about that...Bob needs to go to find the props...

## Interview

Wendy interviews children. Do they know already what they are good at? Is there something they really like doing?

## Chip

Hello Wendy, what are we talking about today? / We are talking about making the best use of our abilities and gifts./ Chip starts making car noises/ What is that all about? / He wants to be a **busdriver**, he has a special ability for driving cars/ Not wanting to discourage him, Lois points out that he is not very tall and that he might not be able to reach the steering wheel...and besides, he always gets lost! / But if I can't become a bus driver, what shall I do? Have I got any other special abilities?/

Wendy points out that he is good at performing, perhaps he would like to become a **ballet dancer**/ No, he does not want that, does not like the costume, but performing is good.../

Well, what about **performing and talking to children**/ He likes that and thinks it is a great idea, yes and he is quite good at that already/ Wendy agrees and points out ways in which he could improve this gift. He could have some singing lessons, learn an instrument, or become a teacher and teach children, or go to the theatre to do Christmas pantos... / Chip likes all those ideas, he's got lots to do and lots to practice...how exciting, he has got a special gift and there is a lot that can be done to make it even better!!

### **Bible story**

Bob: Hello Wendy, I am back and I brought a story with me...this is about a gift too and about the way someone makes very good use of their gift!

### **Bible story**

Teach children verse/ words on powerpoint or board:

*"Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Second part of scripture is on powerpoint but will only get used at end of story) You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things!"* Matthew 25,21 Explain the word FAITHFUL, it means to do the best we can!

### **Actor and props needed:**

Boss/ good and faithful servant/ two assistant servants

Digging spade, watering can, brown sheet to signify plot of land (good to drape part of it over a box, so that it is more visible), bags of seed, small tools for assistants, something to signify very big flowers (we found sunflower umbrellas on the internet and bought three. Great effect when you open up the umbrellas at the end of the story for harvest time.)

### **Story of the talents:**

Once upon a Bible time there was a Boss, he was a wealthy man and had a lot of land. He was a very good Boss (Bob is both Boss and narrator) and he had very good servants, one of the best was his good and faithful servant Wendy.

Wendy: Good morning Boss!

Bob: Good morning Wendy...and good morning faithful assistants!

B: I had a great idea last night, I thought I would like to give you a gift, my good and faithful servant Wendy. Here take this bag of seeds, and I have one for each of your assistants too. What I thought was this: I have all this land, and you can go and turn some of my land into a field, sow the seeds and grow a good crop! I know you like doing that sort of thing and you are good at it! What do you think?

W: Oh, thank you Boss, that is a really kind gift. I am really pleased, thank you! And these seeds are for me, a special present, a gift?

B: Yes, I wanted you to have this gift from me. Go and enjoy then!... ah, one more thing good and faithful servant Wendy...when you have grown your crop, come and see me and tell me all about it!

So Wendy and her faithful assistants went to work the ground. (Wendy and assistants use their tools and prepare the soil, sow the seeds, water...while Wendy talks about what she is doing.)

W: I love doing this. It is so good to make things grow, it is one of my most favourite things in life. I want to do the best I can with this little field and these little plants.

B: Well, they had worked hard, they really did the best they could do and did all this work wonderfully well. Shall we all say together WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS! They came back week after week and looked after the little plants which were beginning to grow.

W: Here we are again. Let's do some weeding, and watering, a little bit of careful digging to keep the ground soft. We want to do the best we can, do make it all grow well!

B: Well, they had worked hard, they really did the best they could do and did all this work wonderfully well. Shall we all say together WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS! After they had done this for some time, they came back again one day and the plants had grown so much, that it was time for the harvest!

W. (Using prop to show how much it has all grown, harvests some and then gives out seed bags to assistants) Well, I am so pleased. We worked hard. We planted the seeds, we did the best we could do to make it all grow...and it has! Now let's go back to see the Boss and tell him about it. But one more thing...shall we be generous and give him a gift now? Let's take some of our harvest back to him!

B: Well, well, well, there you are my good and faithful servant Wendy...and your able assistants...how did it go?

W: It went really well. We had so much fun working in the field. Even on the rainy days, we enjoyed seeing it all grow. And we had a very good harvest. Here we brought you some of our harvest, to give a gift to you too!

B: Wow, well done, well done indeed! I knew you would do well, and now you even bring me some of your harvest! All this for me, that is very generous of you, thank you. ...I have another idea. Last time I gave you one bag of seeds and a bit of my land to work on, from now on, I want to give you even bigger gifts and more land. Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things!

Wendy and assistants: Wow, really...you want to give us even more gifts! And more land to work on, thank you, that is very kind of you. Yippie...

B: They were all very happy at their success and the fact that the Boss was so pleased with them:  
SHALL WE ALL SAY ONE MORE TIME: WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

## Recap

What did we see in the story? ...the Boss gave the good and faithful servant a bag of seeds...

Those are like the gifts and talents God has given to each of us...

And then they made the best use of their gift...

That's like us, doing the best we can to learn, to practice, to develop abilities have. And what this story shows really well, is that we just have keep on, going back week after week to do the best we can. It takes time to make a gift grow...but if we persevere, it can become great!!

## Two modern day examples

(We had a powerpoint with a few pictures and main facts. All pictures and info can be found on the internet.)

### Ryan Hreljac

At 7 years old, raised enough money to build a well in Uganda

Now aged 20, "Ryan's Well Foundation" has built 667 wells in 16 countries bringing fresh water to over 714,000 people

### Wilma "the Tornado" Rudolph

Crippled by polio and pneumonia as a child

Became the fastest woman on earth winning 3 Olympic gold medals in 1960

She wrote "The potential for greatness lives within each of us"

## Song

God loves me

Nothing's too big, big, big

## Prayer